

This half term our topic is



# Up, Up and Away!

## 5 ideas to help your child learn this half term



***Celebrate Success:*** Recognising and enjoying children's success with them helps them feel confident. Let them know you are proud when they do their coat up by themselves or remember some letter sounds.



***Encourage Good Listening:*** Try games and activities which require children to listen for a signal such as "Simon Says" or use "Ready, steady, go" to start an activity.



***Physical Development:*** Help children improve their use of tools such as scissors and equipment such as balls.



***Make time for reading every day.*** (More details inside this leaflet)



***Mathematics:*** Count everything – objects and movements such as jumping on the trampoline or ball bounces.



## Continuing the Learning at Home

*The most effective way to support your child's learning is to spend time talking to them, showing an interest in their interests and playing their games.*

*If you would like to talk to your child about what they have been learning at school try the ideas below.*



### **Up, Up and Away!**

Our learning will be centred on night and day, space and eco-warriors before we become fully immersed in Christmas. This topic provides many opportunities for your children to share their experiences so please look out for requests for photos or objects.

We will be:

- Talking about routines we have at night and during the day
- Learning about space and the planets
- Learning about how we can look after our own planet

At home you could

- Talk about what you will be doing as part of routines e.g. at bedtime
- Enjoy stories about space
- Find out about planets together through books and the Internet
- Ask your child to help sort items for the recycling bin
- Discuss the difference between the 'treat' food we eat for Christmas and the healthy food we eat everyday



### **Reading**

At school, each day, the children have many varied experiences which contribute to their growing literacy skills. These include phonics lessons, story times and reading with an adult along with many play activities.

You can support your child's reading development by ensuring that they have a few minutes 'reading time' with you **every day**. Reading with a family member has a significant impact on a child's reading development.

We have provided your child with a variety of things for you to share in your 'reading time':

- Reading Scheme books that can be changed once you have read them at home– *Children often enjoy reading these several times as they feel more confident with each read. Don't forget to talk about the pictures.*
- A Library Book each week
- Key Words to practise – *When your child's teacher feels that your child is ready to try reading words they will start telling you what to practise in the Reading Record.*

**Don't forget to keep reading to your children with all your books at home as well.**

### **The Characteristics of Effective Learning**

These are the ways your child engages with other people and the world around them. They underpin all learning and development. Your child has already learnt about some of the characteristics but this half term they will be introduced to



a Proud Peacock – when they are proud of their success



a Stick-at-it Spider – when they have persevered with a task



a Hard working Hippo – when they have worked hard



a Bounce Back Bug – when they have solved a problem rather than give up



**Handwriting** is a physical skill, so to enable your child to develop their writing skills they need a wide variety of physical activities to improve their gross and fine motor skills.

At home you could provide:

- For shoulders – *climbing; chalks, crayons and paints on upright surfaces such as easels; throwing, catching and rolling balls*
- For elbows – *moving marbles, stones or pasta between containers with spoons or tongs; popping bubble wrap*
- For wrists – *using nuts and bolts, tearing paper, tracing*
- For fingers – *threading, using clothes pegs, using scissors*

Playing with dough helps all these skills.

Please encourage your child to use a correct pencil grip



## Mathematics

We will be

- Learning to use our fingers as we sing rhymes and count
- Counting to, and then beyond 10
- Finding reasons to measure
- Adding by counting all the objects
- Adding one more
- Counting backwards and subtracting in number rhymes
- Ordering events in our day
- Describing 2D and 3D shapes

At home you could:

- Ask problems ‘*Who has got the most?*’ ‘*Which one is the tallest?*’ Use real objects or fingers to explain
- Solve addition problems ‘*How many will you have if I give you one more?*’ ‘*How many have you got altogether?*’
- Use money
- Notice numbers in the environment
- Notice shapes around the home and when you are out (the names of shapes and what they are like e.g. straight, curved, wide, number of sides etc.)
- Talk to your child about the measuring when you cook together